

XXIV.—Description of a new British species of *Callithamnion*.
By W. H. HARVEY, Esq., Trinity College, Dublin.

[With a Plate.]

IN the year 1840 I received from the Rev. J. H. Pollexfen a *Callithamnion* gathered by him in the Orkney Islands so distinctly characterized, that I had little difficulty in ascertaining it to be new; and, as a just tribute to its excellent discoverer, I named it *C. Pollexfenii*. The MSS. of my 'Manual of British Algæ' had at that time left my hands, but I forwarded a description of the new *Callithamnion* for insertion in its proper place. By some mischance the slip was mislaid and the book published without any notice having been taken of it; but under the MS. name of *C. Pollexfenii* this beautiful plant has since been known to my friends Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Ralfs and others, and I only delayed describing it till I should have an opportunity of revising the whole of the British *Callithamnia*, a labour which has become necessary from the many *varieties* of acknowledged species which have come to my knowledge since the publication of the 'Manual,' and some of which may perhaps be admitted eventually to the rank of species.

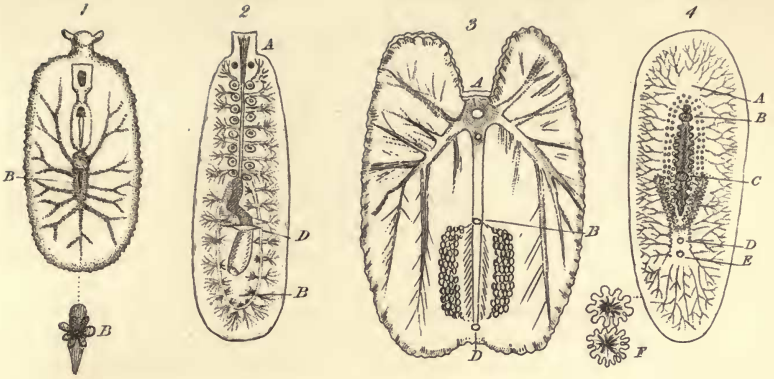
Having lately, however, received a specimen from Dr. Dickie of Aberdeen, which exactly agrees with Mr. Pollexfen's, I no longer delay giving a description of it, as follows:—

Callithamnion Pollexfenii, Harv. Slender, flaccid, *alternately* much branched; branches linear, articulate, each joint having *two* opposite, subulate, slender, short, spine-like, simple ramuli.

On rocks in the sea. Orkney Islands, *Rev. J. H. Pollexfen*, 1840; Aberdeen, *Dr. Dickie*, 1844, April.

Filaments 1—2 inches high, tufted, very slender and flaccid, repeatedly branched in an alternate manner, the major divisions of the frond having a conical or spiry outline. Main stem undivided, one-tubed, jointed and transparent, having several alternate, erecto-patent, rather distant branches, which are again twice, thrice or four times branched in a similar manner, each succeeding series of branches being shorter than the preceding. Every articulation, both of the stem, the branches and the lesser divisions, emits, at a short distance below the joint or diaphragm, a pair of erecto-patent, simple, subulate, short ramuli of much less diameter than the joint from which they spring. Articulations of the branches 4—8 times, of the ramuli once and a half, or twice as long as broad. Colour a fine rosy red. Substance very tender. Fruit unknown. It closely adheres to paper in drying.

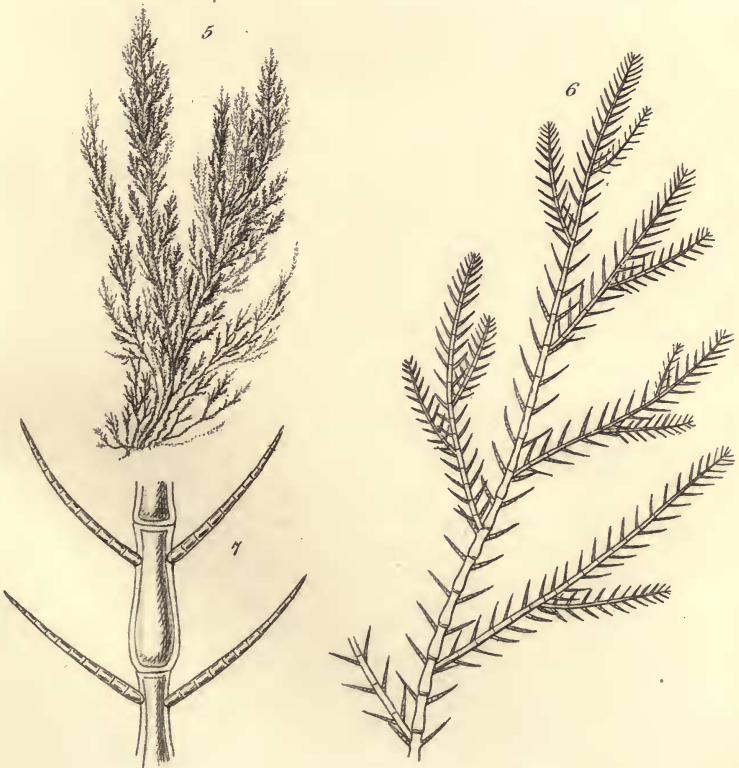
At first sight no species appears more isolated, and yet a slight inspection will show that it is closely related to *C. cruciatum*, next



1. *Planaria oceanica*.
2. *macrostoma*.

3. *Planaria incisa*.
4. *Diplanaria notabilis*.

C. Darwin del.º



Callithamnion Pollefenii.

W. Harvey del.º

J.D.C. Sowerby sc.